Washington in connection with Spring Meetings, the Finance Minister had met the President, World Bank on 15.4.2000.

(b) and (c) The President, World Bank indicated that in view of the improved climate created by President Clinton's visit of India. Bank would take steps to consider all pending projects expeditiously.

The Bank Board approved the following projects on 25.4.2000:

US $ (in million)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount
1.	UP Health Systems Development	110
2.	UP Fiscal Reform & Public Sector Restructuring	251.3
3.	UP Power Sector Restructuring	150
4.	Immunization Strengthening	142.6
5.	Rajasthan DPIP	100
	TOTAL:	753.9

As on April 30th the aggregate commitment by the Bank during this year ending June 30th is $ 1092.27 Million.

World Bank Report

4640. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks among the top 15 countries of the World both in terms of total GNP and value added in manufacturing, according to "World Development Indicators 2000 World Bank Annual Statistical figures;

(b) whether World Bank Report also lays stress on the fact that for rapid reduction in poverty, we will require to adopt more improved policies in developing countries like India; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to remove immense

gap between "haves" and "have-nots" in the country as well as for improving living standard of poor people in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank Indicators 2000 says that more rapid reductions in poverty will require improved policies in developing countries, especially those that are lagging farthest behind, as well as increased support from the industrialized countries for poor contries that adopt the necessary reforms.

(c) The Government are very much concerned about poverty and steps being taken in this regard have been outlined in Chapter 10 of the Economic Survey 1999-2000 and in Finance Minister's Budget speech for the year 2000-2001.

Housing Loan to Poor in the NE Region

4641 SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any scheme/ programme to provide loan for housing to the poor persons living below the poverty line in hilly areas in the NER; and

(b) if so, the details of such persons in NER to whom the loan was granted by the nationalised/rural/cooperative banks during the last three years and till-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No such Scheme formulated by Central Government is under implementation through banks.

Study of Fluctuations of Sensex

4642. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct any study on the frequent fluctuations and manipulation of sensex in BSE and NSE;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and